

## NEWS RELEASE

### U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

OFFICE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

1387 S. VINNELL WAY, BOISE, IDAHO 83709

208-378-5333, FAX 208-378-5339

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Craig Tabor, 208-378-5333

### GRAY WOLF CONFIRMED SHOT NEAR BANNER SUMMIT, IDAHO

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) law enforcement agents have confirmed that a gray wolf was illegally shot around noon on Tuesday, June 21, south of Banner Summit (between Grandjean Road and Banner Summit) on Highway 21.

The incident was reported to the U.S. Forest Service at the Lowman Ranger Station by concerned citizens. The reporting party described the incident, indicating that as they rounded a bend in the highway, they observed a man with grey hair shoot a wolf that was standing on the road between the two vehicles. The individuals did not obtain a license plate number, but they reported observing the shooter standing near a newer-model black (or dark-colored) pickup truck that was pulling a large camp trailer. U.S. Forest Service and Idaho Department of Fish and Game officers later located the carcass of a wolf in that area that appeared to have been shot.

The Service's Office of Law Enforcement is asking for the public's assistance in identifying the driver of this vehicle. Craig Tabor, Service Resident Agent in Charge, said, "It's bad enough that this person shot a wolf, apparently with no legal justification, but, from the description given, it sounds like he shot down the road at the wolf with an occupied vehicle in or near his line of sight. He may be very lucky this is not a homicide investigation."

The killing of an animal protected under the endangered Species Act is punishable by a fine of up to \$100,000 and one year in jail. A reward of up to \$2,500.00 may be paid for information leading to a conviction of the person or persons responsible for the illegal shooting of this wolf. Persons with information about this case, or any other illegal gray wolf killings, are urged to contact Service's Law Enforcement at (208) 378-5333. Callers may remain anonymous.

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The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 95-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System, which encompasses 545 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 69 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resources offices and 81 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign and Native American tribal governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Assistance program, which distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.